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The 1917 American La France Fire Engine

Salinas, CA – The Salinas Fire Department is proud to announce the restoration of a piece of Salinas history – the 1917 American La France fire engine, thanks to the efforts of the Horseless Carriage Club of America, Salinas Valley Chapter.

“We are incredibly grateful for the work of the Horseless Carriage Association of America and all the volunteers involved in this project. It’s not often you find residents willing to dedicate a year of their lives to volunteering for the city. As a result, the 1917 engine stands as both a testament to Salinas Fire’s history, but also the heart and commitment to our community,” said Salinas Mayor Kimbley Craig.

This restoration project, initiated on December 6, 2022, represents a collaborative community effort driven by the expertise and commitment of key individuals and businesses. The primary use of the 1917 American La France engine will be for parades and static displays for the unit, and it will be part of the City of Salinas’s 150-year celebration in April 2024.

“This engine is a part of Salinas’s firefighting legacy. We are thrilled to have it running in time for our 150th anniversary. It is a great piece of history that we are humbled and honored to have operational. We are grateful beyond words to the group that took on the project and to the businesses that helped the team bring this dream to reality,” said Salinas Fire Chief Sam Klemek.

In addition to the Horseless Carriage Club of America, the City Council and SFD wish to extend their appreciation to the following individuals and businesses for their support:

- Horseless Carriage Club of America, Salinas Valley Chapter
- Elmer’s Auto Parts
- Valley Fabrication
- LS Auto Electric
- Henningsen Machine Shop
- AA Glass Shop
- Salinas Radiator Shop
- Jim Skillicorn

- Steven Hughes
- Wayne Earnest
- Gary Petersen
- Fred Wilkinson
- Matt Gaucher
- Jason Tracy

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